

The Rights of a Child if Charged with a Delinquency or Status Offense

The Georgia Uniform Juvenile Court Rules contain the following form:

Rule 3.8. Forms.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RIGHTS

The above named child along with the undersigned parent/guardian and/or attorney states as follows:

I understand that I have been charged with _____ and that I am here today to answer to that charge(s). I have had explained and further understand the following:

1. I do not have to admit to the charges against me or even say anything at all and that if I choose not to say anything it will not be used against me.
2. I have the right to have the charges against me served upon me in writing within a reasonable time.
3. I have a right to have a lawyer represent me and if I cannot afford to hire a lawyer the Court will provide one for me.
4. I understand that a lawyer is trained to understand court procedure and proceedings knows how to conduct trials and how to properly introduce evidence and exclude improper evidence knows how the law applies to the circumstances of my case and knows how my rights and liberties may be affected by the court proceedings and how to protect my rights and liberties and how to present my case and all matters favorable to me to the court, all of which I may not know.
5. I have had my right to be represented by a lawyer explained to me and I understand the danger of proceeding without a lawyer.
6. I have been told of the possible dispositions which the court can order if I admit to the charge(s) or if I am found to have committed a delinquent or unruly act(s) and those dispositions may include but are not limited to dismissal, informal adjustment, probation, commitment to the Department of Human Resources, commitment to the Department of Juvenile Justice not to exceed sixty months, placement in an institution placement in the custody of the Division of Family and Children Services, community service, suspension of driving license privileges, requiring school attendance, and restitution.
7. I have talked with my parents/guardian and/or lawyer about this case and have had all of the above explained to me and had the opportunity to ask questions and have had all my questions answered.
8. I have the right to have a trial before the judge, I can have witnesses there to testify for me, and I can question anyone who might testify against me. I have the right to an appeal from the trial if I disagree with the decision, and I have a right to receive a record and/or transcript of the proceedings in the event of an appeal.

After having been advised of the above I do hereby:

- ☐ Elect to have a lawyer
- ☐ Elect not to have a lawyer

BY SIGNATURE HEREIN, I ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF A COPY THEREOF.

THIS _____ day of _____, 20_____.

Signature of Child

Signature of Parent

Signature of Person Advising Rights Signature of Attorney/GAL

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